



194 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-4914
Telephone: (401) 751-7100 Fax: (401) 331-8533
www.RhodeIslandAFLCIO.org • info@RIAFLCIO.com

Rhode Island Works Best When We Say **UNION YES.**

March 6, 2021

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Room 35, State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney:

We have the distinct honor of representing over 80,000 active and retired members who belong to 250 local union organizations in our state. As you well know, we are democratically elected bodies dedicated to representing the interests of working people at the state and local level. This past year, we have had the added burden of ensuring the labor movement is working nonstop to assist workers and their families who have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A very simple yet potent way we can advocate on their behalf is to urge passage of H-5223, the IGT/Twin River legislation which lays out a comprehensive framework to ensure our third largest revenue stream, gaming is not only protected, but has the opportunity to grow.

From our perspective, the purpose of this legislation at the time of its introduction remains the same today, even in the midst of a global pandemic: To maximize economic development for the State and keep IGT's 1,100 good paying jobs; increase investment in Rhode Island through new construction at Twin River Casino Hotel in Lincoln; ensure that the gaming floor and its slot machines continue to drive over \$300 million a year to the State; minimize the risk of system and technology conversions; and lastly, to enhance Rhode Island's gaming competitiveness with Massachusetts and Connecticut.

All of those objectives would be highly beneficial to the Rhode Island labor union community and we cannot advocate strongly enough for its passage. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George Nee".

George Nee, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick M. Crowley".

Patrick M. Crowley, Secretary-Treasurer

Cc: K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House
Christopher Blazewski, Majority Leader

George H. Nee President • Patrick M. Crowley Secretary-Treasurer
Cheryl A. Masciarelli Office Manager • Mark A. Mancinho Political and Legislative Director